DEMANDS FOR GRANTS—(*Contd.*)

DEMAND XI—POLICE.

MR. W. H. PITT (*Commissioner of Police*): Sir, I move for a grant not exceeding Rs. 5·33 lakhs under Demand XI—Police.

Motion 241.

MR. V. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*): Sir, I beg to move the following motion:—

241. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 11,725 for establishment by Rs. 500.

Under this head, the number under establishment has remained as it was, *viz.*, 34, in the previous year. The lump sum now allotted under this head is Rs. 11,725. Certainly, this is an increased amount as compared with last year's. I don't see any reason for raising this item in the budget. So I would plead for a reduction of Rs. 500 in the budget.

MR. W. H. PITT (*Commissioner of Police*): Mr. President, from the 1st Chingam, 1098, all the clerks in my office and in other offices were put on incremental scales of pay and increments have to be paid from 1st Chingam, 1099, and the sum provided in the budget is required for that purpose. I therefore oppose the motion.

MR. V. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*): I beg to withdraw my motion.

The motion was by leave withdrawn.

Motion 242.

MR. V. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*): Sir, I beg to move the following motion:—

242. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 36,000 for equipment and clothing by Rs. 15,000.

Sir, this item is a pretty large amount, *viz.*, Rs. 36,000. It was a smaller sum last year, *i. e.*, Rs. 16,302. This year it has been raised to Rs. 36,000, *i. e.*, causing an increase of Rs 20,000 in round numbers for equipment and clothing. The price for piece-goods has come down to its normal rate. This is one of the reasons I can suggest for a reduction in the budget.

PRESIDENT: There are two other motions in regard to this matter, one in the name of Mr. K. P. Raman Pillai (motion 243), and the other in the name of Mr. Chidambaratanu Pillai (motion 244). Mr. Raman Pillai's motion is to reduce the allotment of Rs. 36,000 for equipment and clothing by Rs. 6,000 and that of Mr. Chidambaratanu Pillai is to reduce the allotment by Rs. 500. May I know, Mr. Raman Pillai, whether you are going to move your motion as an independent motion, or whether you are going to speak now?

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI (*Quilon*): In sending up this motion, my idea was to see whether any reduction is possible under this head.

PRESIDENT: Mr. Kunjukrishna Pillai has moved for the reduction. Perhaps you would like to speak on that motion.

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[Mr. W. H. Pitt.]

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI (*Quilon*): Then I don't move my motion.

PRESIDENT: I suppose your motion may be treated as identical with that of Mr. Kunjukrishna Pillai.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI (*Quilon*): Yes, Sir, it may be treated as an identical motion.

PRESIDENT: Mr. Chidambaratanu Pillai, then yours?

MR. T. M. CHIDAMBARATANU PILLAI (*Kalkulam cum Tovala*): Yes, Sir, it may also be treated as identical.

MR. W. H. PITT (*Commissioner of Police*): The greater part of the allotment is required for clothing and equipping the 161 head constables and 1,747 constables included under 18-B Police. The amount required on account of stores is very small. Mr. Kunjukrishna Pillai is, as we know, opposed to the ornamentation of departments, and it is therefore natural that he should have attacked police uniforms. There is nothing vague or indefinite about the cost of uniforms. A scale of clothing and equipment is prescribed and the period for which each article has to be kept in good order is laid down. The annual cost of clothing a unit of the force is calculated by taking the proportionate cost of each article. On this basis and at the prices at which the contracts for 1099 have been sold, subject to the provision of funds by this House, the cost of clothing and equipping the cheapest unit, that is to say, a constable serving in a station on the plains, is Rs. 14-13-6 per annum, and of the most expensive unit, *i. e.*, a head constable in a station on the hills, Rs. 30-9-12. This is at the 1099 prices. From the cost of clothing and equipping units, that of clothing and equipping the whole force can be obtained. At the present day prices—they are practically the same for 1098 and 1099—the cost of clothing the whole force is Rs. 31,559-1-5 per annum.

The scale itself, as pointed out by the Financial Secretary in his memorandum on the budget estimate, has been reduced and the figures I have now given are based of course on this reduced scale.

The expenditure for the two years 1098 and 1099 taken together, in accordance with the reduced scale, should amount to Rs. 63,118-2-10; but in point of fact, as I shall explain later on, I expect a saving of Rs. 18,000 in addition to the whole cost of stores purchased, which, however, is not a big item. I do not think this House intends to place me in the position next cold weather of having to tell the head constables and constables serving on the hills that no blankets can be issued because the money for providing them has been taken away by the popular representatives, nor to have to tell the men at the plague observation stations on the Madura frontier that no boots can be provided for want of funds and that they must run the risk of being bitten by infected fleas. Nor do I think that the gentleman who represents the

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Capital of this State would agree to having a Police Force clothed in rags.

With regard to the great difference in expenditure between the years 1098 and 1099, I would point out that it is on account of the fact—as Mr. Van Ross explained when talking on this subject in connection with his own department—that a double amount of clothing is purchased every other year. We issue boots and puttees every other year and it so happens that the double purchase of clothing has to be made in the same year as that in which boots and puttees are provided. So, the difference which always existed between the cost of clothing for any two successive years has been now accentuated. From the budget point of view this of course is not very satisfactory, but it is not very easy to alter it. The difference between the cost of clothing in any two years at to-day's prices is Rs. 16,000.

I said just now that the saving on the sanctioned scale for the two years 1098 and 1099, taken together, is estimated at Rs. 18,000. Of course there are always savings on the sanctioned scale. There will be vacancies in the constabulary. Constables who are on long leave are not given uniform during the period of such leave. Then again, if an article is still in good order, it is not replaced even when the prescribed period has elapsed. For all these reasons we always get a saving. The contracts for 1099 have been sold, subject as I said before, to the provision of funds by this House, since the budget estimate was prepared. I have therefore a fairly accurate idea as to what the cost of clothing and equipment in 1099 is going to be. The provision for 1098, as Mr. Kunjukrishna Pillai pointed out, was Rs. 16,000. A sum of Rs. 3,000 out of it will lapse next Friday, *i. e.*, the end of the year, and for 1099, a sum of Rs. 36,000 has been provided, *i. e.*, Rs. 52,000 in two years. Deducting Rs. 3,000 that gives a balance of Rs. 49,000. I am prepared to accept a cut of Rs. 4,000 in order to make up the estimated saving of Rs. 18,000 on Rs. 63,118-2-10.

MR. S. KRISHNA AIYAR (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*) : May I know whether the contract for the supply of equipment and clothing has been placed with the same firm during the past two or three years?

MR. W. H. PITT (*Commissioner of Police*): I cannnt answer that question without looking up the papers, because we deal with some 20 contractors.

MR. S. KRISHNA AIYAR (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*) : May I know whether these contractors are from British India or from England?

MR. W. H. PITT (*Commissioner of Police*): We buy nothing from England. We have sold a small contract for Rs. 100 or so in Madras, and speaking from memory I can say that all the important contracts have been placed with Travancoreans living in Trivandrum.

PRESIDENT: The contract is sold by auction, I suppose?

MR. W. H. PITT (*Commissioner of Police*): Yes, Sir.

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[Mr. P. K. Narayana Pillai.]

PRESIDENT: Mr. Kunjukrishna Pillai, are you prepared to accept a cut of Rs. 4,000?

MR. V. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*): Yes, Sir.

PRESIDENT: Mr. Raman Pillai, are you also prepared to accept the cut?

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI (*Quilon*): Yes, Sir.

PRESIDENT: Mr. Chidambaratanu Pillai?

MR. T. M. CHIDAMBARATANU PILLAI (*Kalkulam cum Tovala*): Yes, Sir.

PRESIDENT: I take it that the motion is withdrawn on the understanding that a cut of Rs. 4,000 is accepted.

The motion was by leave withdrawn.

Motions 243 and 244.

The following motions were accordingly not moved:—

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI:

243. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 36,000 for equipment and clothing by Rs. 6,000.

MR. T. M. CHIDAMBARATANU PILLAI:

244. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 36,000 for equipment and clothing by Rs. 500.

Motions 245 and 246.

PRESIDENT: There are two motions, 245 and 246, to omit the allotment of Rs. 500 for rewards. Both are identical. I would request Mr. P. K. Narayana Pillai to move his motion.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): Sir, I beg to make the following motion:—

245. To omit the allotment of Rs. 500 for rewards.

In going through the budget estimate, I find that the Police Department is not the only department that stands in need of stimulants in the shape of rewards, to rouse Government servants from the torpor brought about by the disgusting disbursement of mere routine pay. For example, provision is made in the budget to pay rewards in the Forest Department and in the Excise Department to vivify the operations of those departments. It may also be noticed in this connection that there is something like waywardness in the methods adopted and occasionally irreconcilability of the figures which, I fear, will defy the arithmetical sleights of hand of even the genial Financial Secretary. Taking the Forest Department, I see that the allotment for rewards is placed under two heads, one associated with the Conservator of Forests and the other with the D. F. O's. In 1095, I see, Sir, that Rs. 300 was budgeted on account of rewards to be paid by the Conservator of Forests.

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PRESIDENT: That head is not under consideration now.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): I am only at the general policy underlying the grant of rewards. Out of Rs. 300 budgeted on account of rewards to be paid by the Conservator, the accounts show that he paid only Rs. 21. This parsimonious tendency on his part was detected by the Government with the result that in the years 1096 and 1097 nothing was provided for rewards to be paid by him. On the other hand with respect to Divisional Forest Officers, though the budget for 1097 did not provide anything to be paid by them on account of rewards, they seemed to have paid Rs. 32, and Government evidently thought that that was the quarter which stood in need of reinforcement in the matter of rewards and, in the year 1098, a sum of Rs. 200 seems to have been provided. A like sum is also provided for 1099. Coming to the Excise Department, the figures for 1096 show that the department spent Rs. 40 on account of rewards, and in 1097, they managed to spend Rs. 49. In 1098, they budgeted for Rs. 200 on account of rewards, and in 1099 we see there is a sudden rise in the demand for allotment under rewards, the figure budgeted being Rs. 1,000. Unfortunately this provision in the budget escaped my attention and I entertain some dim suspicion as to how it may be utilised, bearing in mind the strength which the temperance movement is aiming day by day.

Coming to the Police Department, we have got figures as regards the amounts provided on account of rewards to be paid by the Commissioner of Police and also the District Superintendents of Police. In the year 1095, the entire amount of rewards paid out by the Police Department, as may be seen from the Administration Report for 1096, was Rs. 805. In 1096, the Administration Report says that the entire amount spent was Rs. 1,185, which there is reason to question, by a reference to the last budget estimate presented to this House, for in the last budget estimate the Commissioner of Police is said to have spent Rs. 666 and the District Superintendents of Police on the whole spent Rs. 940. Coming to 1097, according to some sources that is, the Statistical Volume as well as the Administration Report, we have got on the whole Rs. 856 spent by the department on account of rewards. But referring to the budget estimate presented to this House it may be seen to be Rs. 857, *i. e.*, a difference of one rupee. I don't know how to explain it. Further, with respect to the recipients of these rewards also there are certain facts to be observed. In 1096, Rs. 615 was paid by way of rewards in a single case. Also, we notice that, out of the total sum spent, Rs. 1,185 was given to the police exclusively. In 1097, out of a total of Rs. 856 or Rs 857, Rs. 800 was paid to the police. Rs. 56 or Rs. 57 appears to have been paid to British officers and others. This is how the figures stand. I fail to see why the members of the police staff should be encouraged by the grant of rewards in the matter of detection or prevention or investigation of crime. If any particular constable or head constable, or, as I see occasionally, some Sub-Inspector, acquits himself honorably by

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[Mr. V. Subba Aiyar.]

collecting information or preventing crime, he is legitimately entitled to promotion and not any reward on account of that fact. If, as a matter of fact, anybody is to be rewarded, it is, I presume, the people in general who supply information to the police with respect to the detection of crime. With respect to that aspect, you, Sir, seem to have set your face against the idea; for, referring to the proceedings of the 19th session of the Sri Mulam Popular Assembly (page 27), in answer to the representation that private individuals should be allowed rewards for the detection of illicit tapping, you said as follows:

> Again, you have suggested that people should be given rewards for detecting cases of illicit tapping. There is a certain amount of danger in giving such rewards. It might give room to many false cases of illicit tapping being brought up against innocent persons. Nothing will be more easy for a man who has a spite against another than to bring up a false case of illicit tapping. The Departments of Excise and Police are doing their work under supervision and they have to conform to certain rules in the matter of detection of cases. They have to prepare a *mahazar* and get the testimony of two or three local people. These safeguards are necessary to protect innocent persons from malicious prosecutions. If this aspect of the question is considered, I expect you will agree that your suggestion is a dangerous one to adopt.

PRESIDENT: I have a word of personal explanation. That was an answer which had to be given on the spur of the moment to a representation made to me. What I meant to say was that we should not institute a system of rewards in every case sought to be detected. I did not mean that Government should forbid the grant of rewards in cases where after the case ends it is proved that the information given to the department concerned, whether it be the Police, the Excise or the Forest Department, brought us really valuable information which could be relied upon. That was my object. I did not mean to say that the policy was to forbid that sort of reward.

Mr. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): In view of the explanation that has just now been given I would urge that the reward that may be awarded by the Police Department should be confined exclusively to private individuals. With respect to the members of the police staff itself, it may be seen that they come in for an amount of tender treatment at the hands of Government. For example, we have had cases where, when Circle Inspectors and Inspectors used to be prosecuted by private agencies not for their individual share in official transactions but for the personal offence of defamation, Government have been deputing Sirkar Vakils to defend such police officers. In other cases, *i. e.*, in cases of defamation, in which policemen figure as complainants, Government have agreed that the cost incurred by them in the matter of prosecution will be paid out to them.

PRESIDENT: Do you say that the defamation did not relate to official duties?

Mr. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): The question of defamation has very little to do with departmental conduct of business. It is entirely personal.

Mr. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): May I ask whether Mr. Narayana Pillai is aware of a circular which says that

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the reputation of the public servants is in the custody of the Government, and if there are attacks against them and if they successfully prosecute the persons concerned, their cost may be incurred by the Government. There is a circular to that effect which is printed in the Criminal Courts Guide.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*) : I have a hazy notion of the existence of such a circular, but I would certainly object to the employment of Sirkar Vakils in all cases where the police figure as prosecutors and also as the accused are concerned. The circular itself can never be intended to cover the ordinary prosecutions against police officers for defamation but only to cases of prosecution by police officers. Further, I notice that, in cases of acquittal or discharge of police officers, Government are paying compensation to them in connection with the charges that they have had to meet in such prosecutions. So, it is department which has come in considerably for favourable treatment by Government, and to say that, in addition to the revision of salaries, the members of the police staff are entitled to reward, is clearly going too far in that direction. Further, here we notice the Commissioner demands Rs. 500 on account of rewards to be given by him. Then the District Superintendents of Police have claimed another amount, say Rs. 1,200 or 1,500, in the budget by way of rewards to be paid out by them. All these cannot be said to have consistency. If, as a matter of fact, the main duties appertaining to the Police Department are to be carried out by the District Superintendents of Police, I fail to understand why the Commissioner should be given Rs. 500 by way of rewards to be paid by him. Similar policy has been discountenanced in the case of the Conservator of Forests. As I submitted a little while ago, the Conservator of Forests had a particular amount allotted to him, but that allotment seems to have been discontinued. The Excise Commissioner has nothing by way of rewards associated with his name in the budget. But the Assistant Excise Commissioners get a big amount under this head, *viz.*, Rs. 1,000. At least, for the sake of uniformity, this amount of Rs. 500 which is given to Mr. Pitt to be paid by way of rewards has to be cut. With these observations I beg to offer my motion for the consideration of this House.

MR. W. H. PITT (*Commissioner of Police*): The provision of Rs. 500 made under 18-A Police, is intended for the payment of reward to police officers and other persons living outside Travancore and it is placed with me because the amounts are drawn by me and remitted direct to those to whom rewards are granted. The provision made under 18—B Police is for payment of rewards to police officers and others living in Travancore. All rewards must be sanctioned either by the Government or by myself. But payment in the latter case is made by D. S. P's who draw the money on contingent bills. The amount which we are now discussing relates to 18 - A, *i. e.*, that which is intended solely for paying rewards to persons outside Travancore.

Reference was made to some disparity between the figures in the Administration Report and in the Statistics volume.

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[Mr. K. P. Raman Pillai.]

PRESIDENT: Was that with reference to the Police Department or the Excise Department?

MR. W. H. PITT (*Commissioner of Police*): It was with reference to the Police Department. I shall explain how the discrepancy may have come about. Private persons often present police officers with rewards and if acceptance is sanctioned we include those amounts too in the Administration Report as rewards paid. The figure given in the accounts relates only to the money provided by the Government. I think that it is a very small amount that we provide under rewards, and that there can be very little objection to it from the point of view of the tax-payer, because, as all police officers know, small rewards given now and then do a great deal to stimulate the detection and prevention of crimes. I do not think that, on financial grounds, there is any reason to deprive the department of the money provided. I do not think the other points raised by the member arise here.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): Sir, in view of the allotment made under 18-B, D. S. P's, which comes to Rs, 1,200 this year, I wish to press the motion and request the House to accept it. We have got already Rs. 1,200. That also must relate to investigation and detection and all that.

PRESIDENT: Mr. Pitt has already explained that one amount is for rewards to the people outside and the other relates to rewards to those in Travancore.

MR. P. K NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): May I know whether our policemen get rewards from outside?

MR. W. H. PITT (*Commissioner of Police*): Yes, sometimes. A reward was received from the Cochin State a few days ago, for saving life.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): If so, I would withdraw my motion.

The motion was by leave withdrawn.

The following motion was not made: -

MR. V. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI:

246. To omit the allotment of Rs. 500 for rewards.

Motion 247.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI (*Quilon*): Sir, I beg to move the following:—

247. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 1,800 for upkeep of motor car by Rs. 1,000.

Since the car is a new one, I believe it may be possible to have it going on with this amount. I therefore move the motion for reducing the allotment.

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MR. W. H. PITT (*Commissioner of Police*): Sir, in this connection, I am under two agreements—one with the Travancore Government and the other with Mr. Kumara Pillai. The Government of Travancore has undertaken to pay the whole cost of upkeep of the car. Mr. Kumara Pillai extracted a promise from me at this time last year, that any amount spent over and above Rs 1,800 would be met from my own pocket. The latter agreement lapses at 12 midnight on Thursday/Friday next. Mr. K. P. Raman Pillai wants me to renew it, greatly to my disadvantage. Fortunately, under the agreement with Mr. Kumara Pillai, I lost only a few rupees. But I fear the car is getting older—it certainly is not getting newer—and therefore, next year it will be extremely difficult to maintain the car on a less amount.

MR. S. KRISHNA AIYAR (*Mavelikara cum Kartikapalli*): May I know whether this allotment for upkeep of the car is drawn in a lump and expended at leisure?

PRESIDENT: He asks whether it is a compounded payment.

MR. W. H. PITT (*Commissioner of Police*): The Account Officer scrutinises the bills.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI (*Quilon*): Then I withdraw the motion.

The motion was by leave withdrawn.

Motion 248.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI (*Quilon*): Sir, I beg to make the following motion:—

248. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 58,099 for Commissioner by Rs. 100.

My object in sending this motion is to draw the attention of Government to one or two matters connected with the administration of the department. First, I would deal with the present system of recruitment of the Police Commissioner. I believe I suggested last year that it would be advisable to recruit the Commissioner himself direct, so that he may live here and earn his pension in the Travancore Service.

Then, regarding the recruitment of the D. S. P's. and A. S. P's., I submit, a considerable change can be introduced. During the time of Mr. Bensley, Magistrate-Munsiffs and even Tahsildars used to be drafted into the Police Department. After serving some time as D. S. P's., there was the practice also to send them out on promotion from the Police Department, so that there was greater cordiality between the officers of various departments and greater co-operation. Mr. George, when he reorganised the department, recruited graduates and appointed them direct as Sub-Inspectors. But, since then, we find the department has become quite an air-tight compartment. The head constable of Mr. Bensley became the Sub-Inspector of Mr. George and he again became the Circle Inspector of Mr. Cunningham and he is now the A. S. P. under Mr. Pitt. I submit, promotions to these

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[Mr. K. P. Raman Pillai.]

controlling places ought not to be regulated by mere seniority. As an instance, I will point out the capacity or the eligibility of one of the latest recruits to the post. In 1092, the Sessions Judge remarked as follows regarding the conduct and the investigation of a case :—

"The Circle Inspector's action in seizing the items of wooden furniture, etc., was wholly without warrant. Circle Inspector's explanation for seizing old medicinal bottles discloses no doubt admirable tactics but is of the *most abhorrent kind*. I find there was no actual search but that it was an arbitrary and high-handed looting of the house by the Police assisted by the Niranam men. I further hold that the search, if there were any, was illegal because it is not proved to have been witnessed by any of the respectable inhabitants of the locality".

"Circle Inspector's explanation is highly prevaricative. Before concluding the judgment, I feel constrained to say a word or two *re* the manner in which the case was handled by the police during investigation. The investigation was conducted in the wrong direction and on wrong lines. The Police have collected a large mass of evidence which is not only irrelevant to the charge but is also false in the main. The searches made by them are nothing short of thoughtless and gratuitous inroads into the houses of innocent men. They have made some false *mahazars* and created false evidence. There was also the *mahazar* and wrong detention of 1st accused in custody for a day after the termination of the period for which remand was obtained from the magistracy. The protective and preventive provisions of the Criminal Procedure Code have been grossly contravened ; and the powers conferred on the police under Section 35 Criminal Procedure Code have been abused. The inevitable consequence was the sustenance of limitless annoyance and extreme privation by the accused, besides incurring of pecuniary loss, the reparation of which, by way of compensation, is not within the competency of this court."

After an interval of three years he repeated the same tactics and got the same remarks :

".....Curiously enough, all this was done before the case itself was entered in the Crime Register.....That the search.....has been conducted in a most irregular and slipshod manner..... ..... I am likewise unable to place any reliance on the deposition of D. W. 4 in the face of the clear admission contained in Mr. Govindan's statement..... I have no doubt that the *thondi* articles Nos. 1, 3, 4 and 5 were not put into the well by any one of the accused but were foisted by the police."

Now we find that he is straightway promoted as an A. S. P. I submit that the post itself is not only unnecessary, but recruiting such men is certainly not to help the preservation of the life and liberty of the people.

Another point to which I wish to draw the attention of the House is the necessity for reducing the cost of increase under establishment charges. I pointed out last year that it would be quite convenient and possible for the Commissioner to reduce at least half a dozen charging Stations, like Paravur, Aranmula, Pulinkunnu, Mundakayam, Vadasserikara and Kumili, and substitute outposts.

I submit similarly that it would be possible to reduce the number of Prosecuting Inspectors. I do not think their work is of a satisfactory nature. That is the result of the investigating officers and prosecuting Inspectors being of the same grade. They are all Inspectors. Naturally, the Prosecuting Inspector would feel some delicacy in pointing out the flaws of the investigation or other irregularity in the charge-sheeting of

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a case. I would, therefore, point out that, if they are to be retained, they can with advantage be placed directly under the District Magistrates or the Head Sirkar Vakil, so that their diaries might go up to them, so that they might be independent of the police and will exercise their discretion in withdrawing cases or in opposing bail applications, etc. At present, the Prosecuting Inspectors are entirely at the mercy of the investigating officers. Then again I submit the C. I. D. in Travancore is unnecessary. We find the C. I. D. Inspector is given a clerk and a peon also. Well, since the nature of his work is that of detection, I submit he ought not to be given a clerk, for the simple reason that secrecy in the matter of investigation will be lost by having to get everything done by another. I also submit that the time has come when the day-beat system might be abolished and thereby a number of constables in the Stations reduced. In the good old days, the villagers were not safe. Constables were therefore deputed to visit them and report crimes. I am sure that during the past so many years no crime has been reported by these beat constables and it is also doubtful whether they really visit the villages or not.

It must be possible to reduce the clerical work in the offices of D. S. P's. As my friends pointed out, the work of the police is one of detection and prevention of crime. The D. S. P's have a host of clerks who have to do stores, contingencies and other work. All manner of unnecessary work is saddled upon them. In the time of Mr. Bensley there was only one common central store from which all the articles were sent out or the contractor went from station to station to see that the clothes really fit. Now it is just the reverse and whether the coats and trousers fit them or not they have to wear them with very funny results. (*Laughter.*) It was Mr. Cunningham who introduced these separate stores in 1093, with endless additional registers and so forth. I submit, in the days of Mr. Bensley there were only two clerks for each D. S. P. The junior clerk used to accompany the D. S. P. on tour and the practice of the D. S. P. on inspection of stations was to read the the crime register and that was the most important work. Stores, administration and all the rest of it must be removed from his control and taken back to the office of the Commissioner of Police. I have also to point out that, in that case, we will save money, not only in establishment charges, but in transport charges also.

We have the reserve men and there is very little occasion for employing them. I submit, as in the days of Mr. Bensley, they were doing smithery, tailoring, and other works, and even printing. They are now fed, drilled and kept. I submit that ought not to be. They must be asked to do some work.

Then regarding the A. S. P's. I submit it must be possible to abolish these posts. In any case, according to the present arrangement for work, they are useless, having no definite work. No doubt, in each district, one is a personal assistant in the office, and passes some orders. In some cases, where there is a rub between the two officers, contradictory orders are issued. We find the stations are not inspected as freely

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[Mr. W. H. Pitt.]

and as often as they used to be; and that ought not to be the case. They do not care to do field work, as I told Mr. Pitt the other day. The Commissioner himself was making a series of surprise inspections when he found that the sentries were sleeping, the treasury guards did not challenge him and the head constables were at home. All these betray the sad state of indiscipline due to improper inspections. We find the D. S. P's. never move an inch. They have got two assistants and they take things leisurely. At any rate, one-half of their number can be safely and conveniently abolished and the rest given some definite work. For example, they may be asked to investigate cases of a certain magnitude such as those involving property of the value of Rs. 3,000 or more, all murder cases and so forth. They may also be insisted on to inspect the stations once every three months.

And then I have also to point out to the House the miserable condition in which the lock-ups are maintained and the inconvenience which the under-trial prisoners are put to. I understand some special steps are being taken and I find some ventilators are put up in some lock-ups. But the question must be seriously taken in hand. I submit that every accused in the eye of the law is, till the contrary is proved, innocent. These men have no convenience. They are ill-fed and ill-clothed. They are not given facilities for shaving, etc. They have to sleep on the damp floor and the floor is full of vermin. In some stations, the lock-ups are too narrow. In Chavara, the lock-up is only ten feet square and four or five Pulayas and half a dozen Nairs were locked up in that one room. We also find that *thondi* articles are usually kept in the lock-ups. All this is highly improper. In the Central Prison, on the other hand, we find that the prisoners are housed in a palatial building and are given but sufficient exercise to digest the food given. The condition of the lock-ups has to be considerably improved.

MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): In this connection I wish to say a few words. It has to be brought to the notice of the Government this year also that the pay of the Police Commissioner, including allowances, etc., is far higher than what the State can afford to pay. When Mr. Pitt, the present Commissioner, is reverted to the British service, we request that the Government would always keep in mind the principle that no one should be appointed on any account for anything more than the ordinary pay fixed for the post.

Another point I wish to touch upon is with regard to the resolution demanding an alteration in the Arms Rules.

PRESIDENT: The police have nothing to do with the Arms Rules.

MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): I thought the police were connected with its working.

MR. W. H. PITT (*Commissioner of Police*): Sir, Mr. K. P. Raman Pillai has brought up a large number of subjects; and on a great many of them I have written essays which I have not the time to read.

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First, with reference to the recruitment of my successor, I have nothing to say, except that the Government have noted what has been said.

Mr. Raman Pillai referred to the recruitment of D. S. P's. and suggested that they might be recruited from other departments instead of being promoted from the lower ranks. That will be borne in mind.

He referred to the educational qualifications of the officers of the Police. He is wrong in what he said because the minimum educational qualification required of an Inspector is a Degree in Arts. When the reorganisation of 1088 came about Sir P. Rajagopalachariar laid it down that after 10 years the appointment to the rank of Sub-Inspector from the lower ranks would cease and that all appointments would be made from among graduates directly recruited. That was 10 years ago and the period has expired in 1098. Since then, no new appointment has been made at all.

He referred to a particular A. S. P.; all that I would say on the subject is that all this happened some years ago and it may be hoped that in the meantime his conduct has improved if it was as bad as Mr. Raman Pillai tried to make out.

The reduction of the cost of establishment by closing Police Stations is a point on which I should like to hear something more. From the 1st Chingam 1098, certain stations were closed including Kumili Station mentioned by the mover. There is no station there now but only an outpost. I think Mr. Raman Pillai was taking a bold line when he suggested that more stations might be closed. When there are such proposals they are usually dropped because of local opposition. I hope other members of this House will state their views in the matter of closing stations in their constituencies. I have no doubt that the Government will attach much weight to their opinions.

With regard to prosecuting inspectors, the Head Sirkar Vakil is examining a scheme on the lines suggested, that is to say, whether prosecuting inspectors might not be eliminated and some other agency employed. The only obstacle is that of cost, because it is doubtful whether it would not cost more to employ another agency. I have not talked over the matter with the Head Sirkar Vakil since he has taken up the investigation. So I cannot say anything more. With regard to the C. I. D., we have reduced the establishment this year. The sanctioned establishment is two inspectors, two head constables, and 10 constables. We are now employing one inspector, two head constables and five constables. I think that is the minimum establishment that ought to be maintained. In fact, members of this House have suggested to me that it ought to be increased in order that investigating officers may be sent out from the headquarters to take up more cases, such as the tracing of the origin of counterfeit currency notes. Such enquiries require an officer to travel all over Travancore and it is well that he should be assisted by his own men, instead of by men from the local stations.

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[Mr. K. Parameswaran Pillai.]

Then he said that the constables might be reduced by giving up day-beats. He also said that constables who went on day-beats never brought back any information. I think he is not to be taken literally. The accusation is not quite correct. Constables do occasionally bring back information. I would tell this House that one of the things they do is to serve 400 processes daily. I do not know how many process servers would be required by the civil courts to serve this number of processes which approximates 1½ lakhs a year. And if day-beats are given up we should require an army of men solely to serve processes. I should like to have this work done by some other body. But I do not think that that will save any expenditure because the processes will still have to be served.

Then he referred to the clerical work. I was looking into the subject in the District Superintendent's office at Trivandrum. If my memory is correct, there have been 60,000 original papers dealt with this year. The office receives 1,200 petitions a year in addition to complaints.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI (*Quilon*): What objection is there in asking magistrates to enquire into the petitions?

MR. W. H. PITT (*Commissioner of Police*): I should have the greatest pleasure if they would do it. When I say petitions, I mean petitions about land and so on, and not complaints against police officers.

Then with regard to the Reserve, Mr. Raman Pillai suggested a reduction. Well, we made a reduction last year. In 1097 we had 14 head constables and 209 constables, and we reduced the constables to 164. We have examined the question of further reduction. We are sending out men from headquarters to places outside for preserving the peace. I think that some members of this House will say that we have not got enough men or at any rate we are not sending out enough men. The reason is that we have no more men to send, and I should not advise this House to effect any further reduction. There is no other reserve from which we can take men in time of need.

With regard to the necessity of A. S. P's., as the subject will come up later, and I have spoken long enough, I shall not say anything about it now.

With regard to lock-ups, Government have already ordered a weekly inspection by medical officers throughout the State. I have no doubt that that is all that is required to bring about an improvement.

Mr. M. N. Pillai referred again to the appointment of my successor. I have nothing more to say on this subject.

MR. K. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Tiruvalla*): Sir, in supporting the motion now before the House, I wish to bring to the notice of the Council one particular fact, and that is the very liberal use that

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is made of the security sections of the Criminal Procedure Code. I find, from the statistics of 1096 and 1097, that the number of prosecutions in 1096 under this section was 80, whereas in 1097 it increased to 102, that is, by more than 25 per cent. Such a large increase in the prosecutions under the security sections of the Criminal Procedure Code shows a very unsatisfactory state of affairs indeed. This is a matter which affects the liberty of the subject, and unless there is perfect need for proceeding under this section, no prosecution ought to be launched. If offences are committed by particular persons and that leads to a breach of the peace those offences should be punished rather than steps being taken to prosecute them under the Criminal Procedure Code. It appears to me that this large increase is due to the temperance movement started in the country. On account of the anti-tapping movement, a large number of people were prosecuted and asked to furnish security. Several cases came to my personal notice, and I found that some of them were launched without proper foundations, based upon certain specified acts done by them which did not form the cause for prosecution, while as a matter of fact they might have. If prosecutions are started for offences really committed, the offenders may not be convicted and they will not have proved the case against them. They take advantage of the security section and launch a lot of prosecutions. It appears to me that such prosecutions affect the liberty of the subject and it is a matter which be taken account of.

MR. J. JOHN NIDIRY (*Changanachery* cum *Minachil*): Since my friend Mr. Pitt has invited the opinion of the members of the several constituencies in regard to the possibilities of reduction of stations, I think, I should answer him. So far as my constituency is concerned, I think I may not be justified in pleading for a reduction.

As for the inmates of the lock-ups, I agree with Mr. Raman Pillai who has so correctly depicted the melancholy state of affairs that I also urge upon the Police Commissioner, the Government, as well as the members of this House about the necessity of immediate steps being taken to protect the innocent persons who have to undergo so much suffering.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Sir, Police reorganisations have been frequently carried out. Even the first reform of Mr. George involved the payment of salaries out of proportion to the finances of the State. The creation of Circle Inspectors on prohibitive salaries was condemned. The then Government (of Mr. Krishnan Nair) saw the force of the condemnation and reduced the number of Circle Inspectors when opportunities arose. But substantial reductions could not be made as very few vacancies arose. The policy was to put in police officers of smaller pay. Before that scheme could be worked out, Mr. Cunningham, as Police Commissioner, thought that the Circle Inspector was unnecessary, especially as that class of officers was being abolished in British India. The general reorganisation of last year was based on the top of Mr. George's reform of large salaries. The net result of the present scheme is that every class of police officers is at present placed

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[Mr. N. Padmanabha Pillai.]

on a par with, or higher than, the position of magistrates of every grade, the minimum pay of the District Magistrate being only Rs. 500. In this country, as in other places, pay is a criterion to judge of status and prestige. How can there be protection of life and property, if police officers dominate our magistrates? Magisterial authority has been understood to be such that even a Third Class Magistrate can order the head of the police force to execute a warrant. The ordinary complaint of magistrates is that their orders are not often carried out even by police constables. This complaint was made at the Assembly. There cannot be a more flagrant want of the sense of proportion than giving a salary to the Police Commissioner higher than that of the Chief Justice of Travancore. Nothing can be more outrageous from the point of view of a satisfactory and safe system of the administration of criminal justice.

Regarding the Assistant Superintendents, I supported their appointment in my last budget speech. I shall do so now also in case Mr. Pitt is able to show that the appointment is necessary.

MR. N. PADMANABHA PILLAI (*Karunagapalli*): I also support the motion. In supporting it I only want to bring one fact to the notice of this House. To my mind, the police here are day by day getting more and more inefficient. The detective results achieved 20 or 25 years ago, when the police were not so much overmanned as now, were certainly very much better than at present. I happened to go through some of the Administration Reports of previous years.

MR. W. H. PITT (*Commissioner of Police*): Sir, I think I might interrupt and say that in those days the figure of detection was worked out differently from the way we work it out now.

PRESIDENT: You may say that in your reply.

MR. W. H. PITT (*Commissioner of Police*): What I thought was that if I might say it now it would save a lot of discussion which would be really of no value. The figures in those days were worked out in a different way.

MR. N. PADMANABHA PILLAI (*Karunagapalli*): I wish to hear what the Commissioner has to say in regard to the percentage of lost property recovered. In the year 1075, the percentage of lost property recovered was 64·2; in 1076, 77·6; in 1096, it came down to 39, and in 1097 it was 47. Apart from these statements in the Administration Report we know as a matter of fact that in this respect the police work is very unsatisfactory. Last year while discussing about the A. S. P's., I brought to the notice of the Council a matter about which I had personal knowledge, *i. e.*, about the theft of street lamps within the municipal limits. The Deputy President thought my remarks as verging on the ridiculous. But, however, I must say that they are true. I have personal knowledge of the sort of help that the taxpayer is getting from the police in other countries.

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So, even after mature consideration, I think I am not in a position to follow the attitude of the Deputy President. Several cases are daily reported to the police and we see absolutely no useful result. I had sent up a motion under the 'Administration of Justice.' But that motion had to lapse. I only refer to it here incidentally. Some of these bad results are due to the larger pay given to the police officers than that of the sub-magistrates whose orders these police officers have to carry out. I think it is not right to place the police officers in the same status as the magistrates whose orders they are to execute. That is not desirable in the interests of the public. Whatever be the way in which these results are now measured by the department, to my mind, Sir, these unsatisfactory results are due to the system. I have absolutely no complaint against the policeman as such. I should think the present-day policemen are very much wanting in imagination. Mr. Raman Pillai brought to the notice of the House the way in which recruitment is made to the higher grades of the Police Department. I think that, without real detective skill on the part of these people, we cannot expect satisfactory results. I think we are sending out men particularly for criminal detective work without giving them proper training. The policemen ought to be given good training and until something is done in that way the people will not get what they want for the money they spend.

MR. K. C. MAMMEN MAPPILLAI (*Commerce and Industries, North*): Sir, there is a general desire, which I also share, that, as far as possible, all higher as well as lower appointments, in the State should be reserved for the sons of the soil. But I also feel that there is a far more imperious consideration, *viz.*, that some of the highest officers who have to discharge the most onerous duties should be able to do so to the satisfaction of all the parties concerned. There are diverse communities and races in the country. Sometimes there will be serious outbreaks of disorders and communal troubles. On all these occasions the Commissioner of Police especially ought to be one who should command the undisputed confidence and trust of all the parties without any difference. Now the difference in salary by a few rupees more or less is a trifling and insignificant consideration when the other consideration, *viz.*, that the officer should be able to command the confidence of the people in all the crises in the country, is taken into account. I think it admits of no difference of opinion that, if the two can be combined, surely we ought to go in for sons of the soil and also ought to manage our affairs on as low a salary as possible. This axiomatic truth being acceded to by all, I also could gladly subscribe to the general proposition that we should try and reduce expenditure as far as possible on these appointments. But I am not at all for the proposition that, without any consideration of efficiency and general satisfaction, we should always think of a low salary and of the sons of the soil and all that. (*Hear, hear.*) The two considerations, so far as they can be reconciled with one another, ought to be held in view. I have nothing to say with regard to Mr. Pitt because he can stand on his own legs and he does not stand in need

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[Mr. S. Krishna Aiyar.]

of anybody else's commendation. With regard to the D. S. P's., A. S. P's. and Inspectors, there is no doubt whatever that that system is capable of improvement. When these higher officers are men who are endowed with a sense of responsibility, they can be of the greatest possible help. At the same time, if they are men without a character and without a sense of responsibility the amount of mischief that they are capable of is something incalculable. We are moving about the country and we know what is passing on. Often we have to be painful witnesses of the depredations of police officers. But at the same time we are gratified to say that there are a few police officers who behave like fathers to the people. There can be no hard and fast rule; because some persons with higher educational qualifications turn out to be black sheep and sometimes men without a tail to their names turn out to be very satisfactory. All that I can plead is that the highest possible standards should be insisted on in the matter of recruitment. I think that, on the whole, it has been found that men with degrees are much more satisfactory than men without educational qualifications.

MR. S. KRISHNA AIYAR (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): Sir, Mr. Pitt's pay seems to have come in for a lot of consideration at the hands of the members of this House. I would only invite the attention of the House to the pay of officers in one of the self-governing countries of the world. In Japan I know—I think Mr. Paramesvara Aiyar may rouse himself and tell us something, but I have to make the comparison—the Prime Minister gets only Rs. 18,850 a year, the Military General gets only Rs. 11,250 a year. The President of the Appeal Courts gets only Rs. 7,500 a year. The Admiral of the fleet gets only Rs. 11,250 a year. The Governor General of Corea gets only Rs. 12,000 in the year. The highest imperial officer of the University gets only Rs. 12,500 in the year. And Japan is a State with a population of fifty millions and a revenue of 5 crores of rupees.

MR. W. H. PITT (*Commissioner of Police*): May I know at what rates of exchange the member is calculating?

MR. S. KRISHNA AIYAR (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): At the rate of Rs. 2½ per yen.

MR. W. H. PITT (*Commissioner of Police*): Thank you.

MR. S. KRISHNA AIYAR (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): If then some of the members of the House say that in respect of the place of the Police Commissioner, at least after Mr. Pitt has retired, the question of pay has to receive the attention of Government, I believe they have perfect justification for it. As it is, Mr. Pitt and Government are under contractual arrangement and they cannot go against it. We are under an obligation to Mr. Pitt. On the other hand, what Mr. Pitt has been doing on behalf of the State has been very much to the good of the State. But in future, I submit, the sons of the soil should have a patriotic chance of doing the work at a less salary.

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MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI (*Quilon*): I have nothing to add.

MR. W. H. PITT (*Commissioner of Police*): Sir, there is one point in what Mr. Hoogewerf said that I should like to correct. He said that Mr. Cunningham was in favour of abolishing circles on the ground, as I heard him say, that it had been done in the Madras Presidency. Mr. Cunningham was seriously opposed to the abolition of circles. The experiment was made in the Madras Presidency, but was abandoned afterwards on account of the disorder and bad effects that it resulted in.

I interrupted Mr. Padmanabha Pillai, when he was talking about the figures of detection, because I thought it would save the time of the House to point out that the figure was arrived at by a different method. He asked me about lost property figures. In olden days, if the Police themselves considered cases to be false, they struck off the whole case and showed the property as not lost. And so they excluded it from their figures. What we now do is to await the order of the magistrate to know whether a case is true or false and no case is struck off without a magistrate's order. Mr. K. Paramesvaran Pillai referred to section 90 of the Criminal Procedure Code and commented upon the action taken by the police in connection with the temperance movement. The figures that he gave do not show any very great difference; they were 80 and 102. The preparation and sale of alcoholic liquor is not forbidden in Travancore and therefore persons engaged in its sale and preparation have the same right of protection as any other subject of His Highness the Maha Raja. That goes without saying. I looked into a good number of cases that relate to the agitation to which Mr. K. Paramesvaran Pillai referred, and I did not come across a case myself, where action was not taken on what seemed to be very good grounds.

PRESIDENT: Mr. Raman Pillai, do you withdraw your motion?

The motion was by leave withdrawn.

Motions 249 and 250.

The following motions were not moved :—

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI:

249. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 20,100 for Second Grade Inspectors by Rs. 6,000.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI:

250. To omit the allotment of Rs. 300 for duty allowance to C. I. D. Inspector.

Motion 251.

MR. K. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Tiruvalla*): Mr. G. Paramesvaran Pillai has requested me to submit that, as his motion is the same as Mr. P. K. Narayana Pillai's, *viz.*, 254, he does not move his.

The following motion was accordingly not moved :—

251. To reduce the total allotment of Rs. 3,11,383 for establishment by Rs. 14,400.

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[Mr. P. K. Narayana Pillai.]

Motions 252 and 253.

The following motions were not moved :—

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI :

252. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 13,716 for establishment for Superintendents, offices by Rs. 1,000.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI :

253. To omit the allotment of Rs. 2,856 for establishment for Assistant Superintendents' offices by Rs. 1,428.

Motion 254.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*) : Sir, I beg to move :—

254. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 2,856 for establishment for Assistant Superintendents' offices by Rs. 1,428.

The object of the motion, mainly, is to invite the attention of Government to a consideration of the principle underlying the appointment of the Assistant Superintendents. Sir, before the year 1912, the Police Department was under a Superintendent of Police with a few Assistant Superintendents to assist him. About the year 1912, Mr. George became the Superintendent of Police. His administration of the Police Department was characterised by, what I may call, a declaration of independence on the part of the Police Department. Echoes of that period may be had from certain judgments of the High Court of Travancore in which Their Honors of the High Court had to point out to the Police Department the duties that they were really called upon to perform and the necessity for the co-operation of the Police Department in the matter of the disposal of cases in criminal courts. Evidently, the disagreement between the police and the courts was then brought to a head, necessitating a reorganisation of the whole department. Corresponding to the five revenue divisions of the State five District Superintendents of Police over five police districts were appointed with a District Superintendent for each of the divisions. The District Superintendents of Police were held responsible for the administration of each of the police districts. The charging stations rose from 1,057 to 1,068. The prior practice of having head constables as officers in charge of the police stations was discontinued and Sub-Inspectors of Police were to be in charge of police stations. Police circles were also formed, about 17 in number, and Circle Inspectors of Police were appointed to watch the proceedings of the Sub-Inspectors. There was also a reduction of out-posts in connection with that reorganisation. These are the main features of the reorganisation conducted in the year 1912. The subsequent reorganisation of the Police Department was in the year 1922. In the previous reorganisation of the department, the District Magistrates were consulted by the Government along with the Commissioner of Police, and it is distinctly laid down in the proceedings of the Government, as regards the reorganisation of the

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department, that a complete co-operation, if not also a subordination on the part of the Police, was expected by Government in the matter of the administration of criminal law. In the last reorganisation, however, we notice that no District Magistrate was consulted with respect to the reorganisation. As to the object of the last reorganisation, *i. e.*, the reorganisation of 1922, except that we see in the proceedings the mention of retrenchment and efficiency, both of which may now be taken as the refrain of official music, we do not see what actually necessitated the particular reorganisation in question.

The number of D. S. P's. was reduced with the result that we have now got only three D. S. P's. The three districts are presided over by these officers. Each of them is again practically sub-divided with two Assistant Superintendents of Police employed under each of the D. S. P's. One of these Assistant Superintendents is to be known as the head-quarter A. S. P. and to be practically a Personal Assistant to the D. S. P. The other man is to do duty in the outlying portions of the police district. The Circle Inspectors as a body were dropped, and the grade of Inspectors have been sub-divided into three with a view to graduate the pay of the Inspectors. These are the main changes introduced in the last reorganisation. One thing that we notice in connection with the work of the police is the gradual decline in the number of cognisable cases investigated by the police being 3,581 in 1095 which fell to 3,354 in 1096 and 2,937 in 1097.

Another feature that we notice in recent years is the increase of grave crimes and a fall in the number of processes served by the police. We see further that the police seem to resent references made to them by the magistracy with the result that, in the Administration Report for 1097—

PRESIDENT: How does it bear on the question of the appointment of the A. S. P.? We are not now discussing a general cut from the Police Department, are we?

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): A number of circumstances which afford cover to A. S. P's. must be before the House before I attack him directly. (*Laughter.*)

PRESIDENT: The connection seems to be very remote.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): No, it is not very far distant. Well, if you, Sir, as President, think it is rather out of the line, I will drop the matter.

With respect to the recent reorganisation then, and also with respect to the recent tendency of the working in the department we notice the following features in addition to the features already specified. Now, one aspect that seems to have been lost sight of in the recent reorganisation of the Police Department is the intimate co-operation that was expected to subsist between the police and the magistrates. That seems to have been entirely overlooked.

MR. W. H. PITT (*Commissioner of Police*): That is laid down by statute in the Police Regulation.

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[Mr. P. K. Narayana Pillai.]

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): That is true; it is in the Police Regulation. But in spite of the Police Regulation, the police can manage themselves in such a way as not to co-operate with the magistracy.

PRESIDENT: That is a matter of detail. If there is no co-operation between the police and a particular magistrate it is a matter to be brought up to the Government or the Police Commissioner.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): The re-organisation of the department comes in for consideration. It is only in that way that I bring it up. With respect to the work of the A. S. P., as has already been pointed out by my friend Mr. Raman Pillai, it is in a nebulous sphere. Nothing definite has been laid down as the amount of work or the nature of the work that is separately to be turned out by the D. S. P. and the A. S. P. Now, it is possible to neglect all manner of work. For, the D. S. P. may expect the A. S. P. to turn out the amount of work that naturally fell to his share and the reverse sort of outlook may be entertained by the A. S. P. also. First of all, with respect to the question of investigation of offences it is not obligatory on the part of the A. S. P. For that matter, it is not obligatory on either the A. S. P. or the D. S. P. to investigate any case at all. His work, in the main, may be seen to be one of supervision. His supervision is exercised upon the subordinate Sub-Inspectors and the constabulary. Well, as a matter of fact, the recruitment of the lower grades, *i. e.*, of the constables and head constables and that sort of people, is somewhat unsatisfactory. Any amount of supervision will not be of avail. With respect to the result of the supervision the public at large are not in a position to judge. The only occasions on which the conduct and character of policemen come to the light of the public are occasions on which their conduct is legally in question before the judiciary. Judging by the notice taken of the strictures passed by the judiciary upon the conduct of the policemen in connection with cases, the sort of treatment that they get has been already illustrated by my friend Mr. Raman Pillai, quoting from judgments of Sessions Courts. So, this sort of work which is not open to public gaze is that which is being pursued by the A. S. P.

Further, I raise the question, Sir, that if the Government think that they are putting in a number of questionable people in the lower grades of the Police Department—constables, head constables and that sort of people, necessitating at once a supervision over their work by a superior body of officers—A. S. P's.—whether it is not a step of questionable wisdom. The utmost care ought to be entertained in the way of recruiting people to the grade of the lowest rungs, *i. e.*, the constable. It is there that care ought to have been employed. It is no good first of all to appoint a number of people, and at once, entertaining the suspicion that these people would be misbehaving, to create

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another agency to supervise them. Therefore, in the matter of recruitment it is that care should be employed and not in the matter of creating agencies for the supervision of the work of these people. As it stands, I may submit that the work of the A. S. P. is of an unascertainable kind; and then in the matter of this recent reorganisation of the police there are also several aspects which ought to have been borne in mind by the Government. First, I would draw the attention of Government as to whether they considered the nature of Police supervision in particular parts of the country; for, the nature of the crimes committed in different parts of the country is different. For example, in the case of towns, the sort of offences that we generally come across may be placed under certain categories, like petty thefts and infringment of the municipal laws; whereas in the outlying parts of the State, the sort of crime committed may be seen to be somewhat different. Further, there are certain centres in which the infringement of the criminal law may be seen to be on the increase while in certain other centres the peace-loving population have been needlessly getting the keen supervision of the police.

With reference to the statement made by my friend Mr. Nidiry, he said it was very difficult to get rid of policemen in his own constituency, I mean Minachil, as may be illustrated by the activity of the Sessions Court in that centre. It would have been wise on the part of the Government and the Police Department to have concentrated attention upon that particular tract. There are tracts of this description in the State which require close supervision of the police. But no such idea was kept before the Government in the matter of reorganising the department. As a rule, the requirements of the State, as a whole, will have to be carefully examined in the light of the statistics relating to different localities before any reorganisation. Here we have got a reorganisation which looks quite right on paper, with precise similarity in the division as the whole State is divided into three districts each of which is subdivided into two. Whether the necessity exists or not, something like geometrical symmetry has been kept up. Though no part of the State can do without police supervision, the closeness or intensity of such supervision will vary with different centres. Therefore, in a system of this description, as I submitted, an intermediary officer like the A. S. P. can escape all work ostensibly showing an air of attention to his own work and pretending that he is doing a lot of work, while, as a matter of fact, not doing any work at all. So, my humble submission is that the whole scheme of the recent reorganisation of the police has to be re-examined in the light of my submission before a case is made out justifying the appointment of the A. S. P. As he has already been appointed, the pay of the A. S. P. will have to be cut by a half.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI (*Quilon*): May I know whether he agrees to the substitution of an outpost for the charging station at Pulincunnu ?

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[Mr. Tariatu Kunjitomman.]

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): I do not agree. It requires a station house. The nature of my taluk demands peculiar considerations. For, locomotion is extremely difficult. (*Laughter.*) We have to move about mainly in boats.

PRESIDENT: It is a very easy thing.

MR. P. V. DANIEL (*Agastisvaram*): Sir, I think, I should say a word or two in this connection.

Sir, if the police budget were placed in the hands of a British Indian gentleman, I am sure he will think that Travancore must be, in respect of crimes, just like the District of Coimbatore or the land of Moplahs or Kallars. We are not, Sir, confronted with a series of murders and tragedies, with the inroads of modern Robin Hoods or with the political propaganda of non-co-operation. Sir, there is absolutely no reason for maintaining such a costly police force in a peaceful country like ours which is inhabited by law-abiding and loyal subjects.

Apart from the luxuries at the top of the department, which, we are told, are inevitable at present, and which, we sincerely hope, will in due course be removed, it is distressing, Sir, to look at luxuries even in the subordinate ranks. One such instance is the appointment of six Assistant Police Superintendents. At about this time, last year, some of the learned members of this House, who are as much patriots as any others, pleaded for the abolition of the post of Assistant Superintendents. Sir, we do not stand in need of half a dozen costly Personal Assistants on Rs. 250 each per mensem for the District Police Superintendents starting each on Rs. 300. This looks, Sir, as something fantastic. If any necessity for help in the office is felt, the District Police Superintendent may be given a reader, as they do in British India, to serve as a personal clerk. It is unnecessary, Sir, to have such costly Assistants in the office when the Police Commissioner himself is contented with having an Inspector for his office. At the most, one Assistant Police Superintendent has to be placed under the Police Commissioner for urgent calls. There is absolutely no work for the Assistant Police Superintendent which the District Police Superintendent cannot do himself. In fact, I am afraid that, if the present system be allowed to continue long, efficiency and mismanagement will be the result. I appeal to the learned Police Commissioner to take a dispassionate view of the matter. I hope this golden opportunity of doing some good to the public of Travancore by a reduction in the staff of the police force will not be lost this time at least.

MR. TARIATU KUNJITOMMAN (*Muvattupuzha*): മറ്റു ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറുകളോടു താരതമ്യപ്പെടുത്തി നോക്കുമ്പോൾ പോലീസ് ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറിലെ കീഴ് ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാരാണ് അധികം അക്രമങ്ങൾ കൊണ്ട് ജനങ്ങളെ വിഷമിപ്പിക്കുന്നതെന്നു പറയാതെയിരിക്കാൻ തരമില്ല.

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എന്നാൽ മറ്റു ഡിപ്പാർട്ട്മെൻറുകളിലെ കീഴ്ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാരെപ്പോലെ ഇവർ നാടിനുവേണ്ടി അധികം ചീത്തയായിവരുന്നു എന്ന് പറയാൻതരമില്ല. ചീത്തയാകാവുന്നിടത്തോളം പണ്ടേതന്നെ ചീത്തയായിട്ടുണ്ട്. ഇങ്ങനെ ജനങ്ങളുടെ ക്ഷേമത്തേയും സമാധാനത്തേയും കാക്കേണ്ട ഇവർ ഇതുവളരെ ചീത്തയായിപ്പോയതു വളരെ കഷ്ടതരമാണെന്നുപറയാതെയിരിക്കാൻ തരമില്ല. വേലിതന്നെ വിളവു തിന്നുന്നതുപോലെയാണ് ഇവരുടെ നില. ഇവരുടെ എല്ലാം നേക്ക് പോലീസ് കമ്മീഷണർക്കോ ഡിസ്ട്രിക്ട് സൂപ്രണ്ടിനോ എപ്പോഴും ദൃഷ്ടിപതിച്ചുകൊണ്ടിരിക്കാൻ സാധിക്കയില്ല. അതുകൊണ്ട് അസിസ്റ്റൻറ് സൂപ്രണ്ടന്മാരെ വയ്ക്കുന്നതു നന്നാണെന്നാണ് എൻറെ അഭിപ്രായം. ഇവരും ഇൻസ്പെക്ടറന്മാരാടും ഹെഡ കാൻസ്റ്റബിൾമാരോടും ചേർന്ന് അകൃത്യങ്ങൾക്കൊരുങ്ങുന്നു എന്നുവരികിൽ അധികം കഷ്ടതരമായിരിക്കും. ഇക്കാലം ഓരോ സ്ഥലങ്ങളിലെ ഇൻസ്പെക്ടറന്മാരും ഹെഡ്കാൺസ്റ്റബിൾമാരും ജനങ്ങളെ പലതരത്തിൽ ഉപദ്രവിച്ചുകൊണ്ടിരിക്കയാണ്. നല്ല അസിസ്റ്റൻറ് സൂപ്രണ്ടായിരുന്നാൽ ഇവർ നിമിത്തം വരുന്ന കഷ്ടതകളെ ധരിപ്പിച്ച് ജനങ്ങൾക്കു വേണ്ട പരിഹാരം നേടാം ഉത്തരതിരുവിതാംകൂറിനെ പറ്റി പ്രസ്താവിക്കയാണെങ്കിൽ കോട്ടയത്താണ് ഒരു ഡിസ്ട്രിക്ട് സൂപ്രണ്ടുള്ളത്. അവിടെ നിന്നും ചില സ്ഥലങ്ങളിലേക്ക് നൂറു മൈൽ വരെ ദൂരമുണ്ട് ഉൾനാടുകളിൽ നിന്നും അവിടത്തേക്ക് കമ്പിത്തപാലും മറ്റൊന്നുമില്ല. എന്തെങ്കിലും അകൃത്യങ്ങൾ ഇൻസ്പെക്ടറന്മാരും പോലീസുകാരും തുടങ്ങുകയാണെങ്കിൽ ഉടനെ പോലീസുകമ്മീഷണരേയോ ഡിസ്ട്രിക്ട സൂപ്രണ്ടിനേയൊ അറിയിക്കാൻ എളുപ്പമില്ല. കമ്പിമാർഗ്ഗം അറിയിക്കാൻ സാധാരണ പ്രയാസമാണ്. അതുകൊണ്ട് അസിസ്റ്റൻറ് സൂപ്രണ്ടന്മാരുടെ അടുക്കൽ അറിയിച്ചാൽ ഏറെക്കുറെ നിവൃത്തി ഉണ്ടായി എന്നുവരാം. ഇൻസ്പെക്ടറന്മാരെപ്പോലെയാകാതെ ഇവർ നല്ലവരാകാൻ ഗവർൺമെൻറ് പ്രത്യേകം ശ്രദ്ധിക്കേണ്ടതാണ്. ഏതായാലും വടക്കൻ തിരുവിതാംകൂറിലേക്കെങ്കിലും ഒരസിസ്റ്റൻറ് സൂപ്രണ്ടാവശ്യമാണ്. ഇപ്പോൾ കുന്നത്തുനാട്ടാണ് ഒരസിസ്റ്റൻറ് സൂപ്രണ്ടിരിക്കുന്നത്. അവിടെ കമ്പിത്തപാലും മറ്റൊന്നുമില്ല. കമ്പിയാപ്പീസുള്ളത് മൂവാറ്റുപുഴയാണ്. ഒരസിസ്റ്റൻറ് സൂപ്രണ്ടുള്ളത് അവിടെയാണെങ്കിൽ കുറെക്കൂടി സൌകര്യമായിരിക്കും. എല്ലാ ഡിപ്പാർട്ട്മെൻറുകളിലും ശമ്പളവും ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാരും കൂടുതലാണെന്നുള്ള പക്ഷക്കാരനാണ് ഞാൻ. എന്നാൽ വടക്കൻ തിരുവിതാംകൂറിലെ അവസ്ഥ ഓർക്കുമ്പോൾ അവിടെ

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[Mr. A. Hoogewerf.]

ഒരസിസ്റ്റൻറ സൂപ്രണ്ട് എത്രയും ആവശ്യമാണെന്ന് അഭിപ്രായപ്പെടാതിരിക്കാൻ പാടില്ല. പോലീസ് ഇൻസ്പെക്ടറന്മാരുടെമേൽ അസിസ്റ്റൻറ സൂപ്രണ്ടിൻെറയും അവരുടെ മേൽ ഡിസ്ട്രിക്ട് സൂപ്രണ്ടിൻെറയും അവരുടെ മേൽ കമ്മീഷണരുടേയും ഒപ്പീനിയൻ പതിച്ചുകൊണ്ടിരിക്കയാണെങ്കിൽ ജനങ്ങൾക്കു വളരെ രക്ഷയുണ്ട്.

അതുകൊണ്ടു വടക്കൻ തിരുവിതാംകൂറിലുള്ള അസിസ്റ്റൻറ സൂപ്രണ്ടിനേയെങ്കിലും നിർത്തിക്കളയാതിരിക്കണമെന്ന് ഞാൻ അഭിപ്രായപ്പെട്ടുകൊള്ളുന്നു.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): I supported the appointment of A. S. P's. very strongly last year. I would wish to do the same this year also, with the proviso that I am not supporting a broken reed. My support was really based on the supposition that these A. S. P's. were necessary to investigate into cases detected by Police Inspectors. That was a strong point on which I based my argument. Now Mr. Narayana Pillai says that that sort of investigation is not absolutely necessary. I wish Mr. Pitt to clearly point out whether it is necessary or not. That is the main point.

Now, I come to a little experience I had of the A. S. P. (*Laughter.*) I was interested in a very big theft case near Cape Comorin. The A. S. P. took one view of the case and the D. S. P. took another which I thought was the right view. My friend Mr. Daniel will bear me out in this matter. Indeed the A. S. P. was pulling one side and the D. S. P. was pulling the other side. (*Laughter.*) The result has been a sort of deadlock. The case, I believe, has not been detected as yet. Now, if that is going to be the order of things, I should with one stroke of the pen get rid of the A. S. P. (*Laughter.*) But the matter must be seriously considered before such a step is taken. There is greater complexity of life; aspects have changed with the growth of population and with the growth of crime. At any rate, if the A. S. P's. are to be got rid of, one man at least is necessary in the Capital to be always ready to be sent to some place where there is trouble. I believe the A. S. P. here was sent a couple of nights ago with a reserve force to surround a village, somewhere near Aramboly, where the great Jembulingam, (*laughter*) was said to have been. So, a smart A. S. P. is necessary always, at least for occasions of this kind; and particularly, when the D. S. P. goes out on circuit, one man is absolutely necessary in the Capital.

If I propose that the A. S. P's. should be reduced, it is on the ground of economy; because, as I said before, duplication of appointments does not make for efficiency. With these remarks, I leave my mind open for Mr. Pitt to convince me.

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MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR (*Chengannur* cum *Pattanamtitta*): Sir, I strongly support the motion I think the number of A. S. P's. can be reduced from six to three. The argument advanced by the Police Commissioner was that he has reduced the number of intermediary officers from 10 to 6 and thus he has made a saving. But the question that we have to consider is not whether we have made a saving or whether we have made a reduction in the number of the intermediary officers. The question to be considered is whether so many intermediary officers are necessary for the administration of the department. Before 1088, there were only one Commissioner, three A. S. P's., and 50 Inspectors, and in 1086, 3,801 cases were investigated by the police. Now the number of cases investigated by the police is gradually decreasing, and in 1096 only 3,354 cases were investigated by the police out of which 2,449 were taken direct by the police and 690 cases were referred by the magistrates. Out of the 690 cases referred by the magistrates, 631 were returned to the magistrates as false. In 1097, only 2,937 cases were investigated by the police, out of which 519 were referred by the magistrates, and out of these 418 were returned as false. So, as the number of cases to be investigated by the police is decreasing we can infer that there is not so much of work now as in the past. Now there are one Commissioner, 3, D. S. P's., 6, A. S. P's., and 76 Inspectors. In the reorganisation of 1088, 17 circles were created and Sub-Inspectors were put under the Circle Inspectors. But later on, it was found that the Circle Inspectors were not necessary. These intermediary officers were not doing efficient work and so their number was reduced from ten to six. Now, in each District there are two A. S. P's., and one of them is appointed to help the D. S. P. By giving an Assistant to the D. S. P., he is almost left free and he has not got sufficient work to do. If only one Assistant is given to the D. S. P. and if that Assistant is deputed to supervise the work of the police district, one Assistant can be reduced from each district.

REV. FR. KURIAKOSE VETTIKKAPALLI (*Todupuzha* cum *Kunnatnad*): From my own personal experience as well as from the information that I was able to gather, I am glad to say that the A. S. P's. are doing some useful work. With the abolition of the Circle Inspectors, they have become almost a necessity, at least as far as the country parts are concerned; because, as Mr. Kunjitomman said, especially in the country parts, the lower officers of the Police Department are doing a lot of mischief. These country parts should be frequently visited by responsible officers of the Police Department. The appointment of these A. S. P's. has made it possible to have frequent visits of higher officers to the country parts. But I would suggest, for the consideration of the Police Commissioner, to give them more definite work and to get from them as many visits as possible, not only to the towns and crowded areas, but also to the interior of the country, and I would further suggest that the Personal Assistant who is now stationed at the headquarters of the D. S. P. may also be given division charge, so that he too may go about and check these lower officers.

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[Mr. W. H. Pitt.]

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): I wish to know from the Rev. Father whether the sort of work that the D. S. P. is now doing is all right.

REV. FR. KURIAKOSE VETTIKKAPALLI (*Todupuzha* cum *Kunnathnad*): About the work of the D. S. P's., I have nothing to complain. But I am not prepared to say that all that they do is quite satisfactory or otherwise.

MR. K. C. MAMMEN MAPPILLAI (*Commerce and Industries-North*): I agree with the Rev. Father and Mr. Kunjitommon about the desirability of having superior police officers to control and encourage, and sometimes discourage, the business of the police up-country. But from my limited experience I am not satisfied that the headquarters A. S. P. also is necessary. So long as a responsible officer of the status of the D. S. P. is always residing in the headquarters, the A. S. P. there seems to be a superfluity. Of course, I do not know the details as regards their work; but from my observation from a distance I think it might be possible, without impairing efficiency, to reduce the three headquarter A. S. P's.

MR. W. H. PITT (*Commissioner of Police*): Sir, the gist of the mover's speech is that the Travancore Police is over-officered, and that the officers and men are kept in the wrong places, and that the District Magistrates were not consulted at the time of the reorganisation of the department, and so on. I will refer to other points later. I pointed out to the House, when speaking on this very same subject last year, that the number of superior officers, *i. e.*, officers superior in rank to the officer in charge of a station, has been steadily reduced from the year 1088 onwards. I believe there is no dispute about the figures I gave. The number of officers of rank higher than that of station house officer was in

1087	...	43
1088	...	22
1098	...	10

and in 1099 the number provided is the same, *viz.*, ten, that is to say, in 11 years the number has been reduced from 43 to 10. It is my opinion, and I give it to this House for what it is worth, that the reduction of superior officers has been carried to the limit of danger.

MR M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR (*Chengannur* cum *Pattanamtitta*): What is that number 43?

MR. W. H. PITT (*Commissioner of Police*): That is the number of officers superior in rank to the station house officer.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Does Mr. Pitt mean to say that the number has been reduced from 43 to 10?

MR. W. H. PITT (*Commissioner of Police*): Yes, Sir. The number has been reduced from 43 in 1097 to 10 now. We have now 10 officers instead of 43.

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Firstly, I would give the House a rough idea of the work that falls upon superior officers of police. There is, in the first place, the administration of a department employing roughly 2,000 hands. In the second place, there is the investigation of more serious offences. It has been stated that the D. S. P. and the A. S. P. are not compelled to investigate crimes. That is not accurate. They are compelled—

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): Under what law or regulation are they compelled?

MR. W. H. PITT (*Commissioner of Police*): There is a departmental order to that effect.

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): I wish to know from Mr. Pitt how many cases have been investigated directly by these superintendents in the year 1098.

MR. W. H. PITT (*Commissioner of Police*): Sir, I am now dealing with *what* the department has to do. If Mr. Paramesvaran Pillai wants, I will state later on, *how* the department carries on its work.

Thirdly, there is the investigation of complaints against officers and men of the department itself. Fourthly, there are the making of arrangements for the protection of property by beats and patrols, the preservation of peace, the maintenance of order at festivals and other large gatherings, the control of traffic, and so on.

As regards Mr. G. Paramesvaran Pillai's question, it is not easy, within the time at my disposal, to give him a comprehensive idea of the manner in which the A. S. P's. have performed their share of the above duties.

Statistics of work done, particularly police work, are apt to be deceptive, for an investigation may be useful or it may not be, and an inspection may be thorough or superficial. But, for what they are worth, I will give the House an abstract (compiled from the diaries which they send me), of the duties performed by Assistant Superintendents during the first eleven months of the current year.

I have got figures for all the six Assistant Superintendents. The motion refers only to the headquarter Assistant Superintendents. These three Assistant Superintendents have carried out 64 inspections of stations, investigated 126 crimes and have held 51 departmental enquiries and have also investigated 49 petitions.

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): I wish to know from Mr. Pitt whether he would find it possible to give us the total number of crimes during the eleven months of last year.

MR. W. H. PITT (*Commissioner of Police*): I have not prepared statistics. Crimes are not ledgered in my office.

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): May I ask what proportion the 126 cases bear to the total work of the A. S. P's.?

MR. W. H. PITT (*Commissioner of Police*): I can work out the calculation and give it to the member in about 20 minutes.

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[Mr. T. K. Velu Pillai.]

PRESIDENT: I presume that that number relates to the most important cases.

MR. W. H. PITT (*Commissioner of Police*): Yes, Sir. It relates to what are known as grave crimes.

With regard to complaints against officers and men of the department itself I should like to say a little more, as it is an important subject, and to my mind the most important subject with which a superior officer of police has to deal. The Police Department is in the fortunate position of being subjected to a searching criticism, unknown, I may say, in any other department. Whatever action the police take, or do not take, some member of the public is affected thereby and the consequence is that we register, and dispose of, some 500 complaints per annum against ourselves.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI (*Quilon*): Is there a register of complaints maintained by District Superintendents?

MR. W. H. PITT (*Commissioner of Police*): Yes, and in my office too. (*Laughter.*)

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): I wish to know whether as a rule the A. S. P's. attend District and other courts to give evidence or watch cases

MR. W. H. PITT (*Commissioner of Police*): They do attend courts. But I cannot say how often they do so. It is not very often that they are summoned as witnesses.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): I mean whether, without summons, as regards cases of murder and of big thefts, as a rule, these A. S. P's and Inspectors watch the proceedings in courts.

MR. W. H. PITT (*Commissioner of Police*): They do not attend courts daily, but they do so whenever necessary.

As I was saying, during the course of the year, we have registered and disposed of 500 complaints against ourselves.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI (*Quilon*): I wish to know whether it will not be more satisfactory if these complaints are enquired into by magistrates.

MR. W. H. PITT (*Commissioner of Police*): I have no objection. But I do not know if anybody can be compelled to make a complaint to a magistrate. If a complaint is brought to us we have to entertain it.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum cum Neduvangad*): Sir, I wish to know from Mr. Pitt whether during the inspections made by the higher police officers of the State they have come across instances in which the police subordinates were guilty of high-handed action such as bribery and things of that kind, and if so, how many police subordinates were dismissed or suspended as a consequence.

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MR. W. H. PITT (*Commissioner of Police*): I have not got the figures. As far as I can remember, about 33—officers and men—were dismissed last year.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum cum Nedumangad*): What I want to know is whether these dismissals have been effected as a result of the inspection by D. S. P's.

MR. W. H. PITT (*Commissioner of Police*): Yes, as a result of inspections by D. S. P's. I have not got the figures; but a lot of men have been punished as a direct result of such inspections.

It has been said—on what grounds I do not know—that we the superior officers of the police ignore all such complaints. I should like to give an illustration of the light-hearted way in which this charge is made. A constable undertook to despatch a money order for a lame beggar who wished to send his surplus profits to his family and is charged with misappropriating the money. The incident was reported by a local newspaper. This is how the account ended. I think I may try to say it in Malayalam. "ഭിക്ഷുവിന് പണം കിട്ടുകയോ കാൻറ്റൺമെൻറ് മേൽ നടപടി നടത്തുകയോ ചെയ്തിട്ടില്ല." (*Laughter.*) The real facts of the case are these: The incident took place in the evening. The beggar told his story to some constables of the Cantonment station. I was very much pleased to find that the constables made immediate enquiries and ascertained who the constable concerned was. The alleged culprit belonged to the Reserve. Information was sent to the Police Headquarters Office. The men of the guard there detained the constable and sent word to the Reserve Inspector, who by 9 P. M. of the same day recovered the money and secured the necessary evidence. The case was sent up to myself next morning and by noon of that day the constable had left the department. He is now under trial and the prosecution is being conducted by this department.

With regard to the return of the money to the beggar, the provision of the Criminal Procedure Code relating to the disposal of stolen property will apply. Even if Section 90 of the Criminal Procedure Code is to be ignored, Section 401 has to be followed. I have quoted this instance to show that the superior officers of this department do, as far as possible, endeavour to rid the department of abuses, and that if all the superior officers are taken away it will be impossible to maintain discipline hereafter. I have no doubt that I shall be told that if a complaint is against a station house officer the District Superintendent himself can investigate it and that if it is against a head constable or constable it can be sent to the station house officer for disposal. In the first place, the D. S. P. will not be able to investigate all the complaints that he receives, because these complaints are large in number. When the file relating to an enquiry comes to me it is sometimes an inch thick. The District Superintendent of Police will not even be able to deal sufficiently promptly with all the complaints against station house officers

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[Mr. W. H. Pitt.]

and although some of my non-official friends may consider the investigation into the conduct of their own men made by station house officers satisfactory, that is, I am sorry to say, not my own experience.

Sir, if the Assistant Superintendents of Police were to be taken away and the department left with one Commissioner and three District Superintendents of police to supervise the work of 2,000 men, it might be better to abolish the whole police force.

One other point raised was that the District Magistrates were not consulted when the reorganisation scheme of 1097 was drawn up. I expect Mr. Nidiry will justify the action of the Salaries Committee on that point. I know nothing about the matter. The Committee did not examine me either.

Reference was also made to the cases referred to us by magistrates. There is a distinct misunderstanding on that point. If a person wants to make a complaint direct to a magistrate he is at liberty to do so. If magistrates refer cases to us we are prepared to receive them, but the point of view of Government is—

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): Sir, I was not allowed to develop that point.

MR W. H. PITT (*Commissioner of Police*): —that in fairness a man must be allowed to complain direct to a magistrate and not to the police if he so chooses.

Then my friend referred to the unsatisfactory class of men that were recruited as constables and head constables. For the last two years we have not recruited anybody. Before that, only men with war service were recruited. Recruitment is to be reopened shortly and if Mr. Narayana Pillai will give me the names of men who can be trusted to work without supervision I shall be pleased to entertain them. I hope Mr. Narayana Pillai will give me names as vacancies occur.

I explained last year why three Assistant Superintendents were posted at the headquarters rather than elsewhere. Reference was made to the abolition of circles in Trivandrum and Nagercoil districts and I think it was intended to be understood that we have gone back and increased the number of officers again. That is not so. Because, after these circles were abolished, there were left two D. S. P's. and one Circle Inspector who was in charge of Trivandrum town. So, after the abolition of these circles there were still three superior officers in what is now called the Trivandrum Division. Instead of two D. S. P's. and one Circle Inspector we have now one D. S. P. and two A. S. P's.

Mr. Hoogewerf referred to a certain case, which, I am sorry to say, is still undetected—in which he pointed out that there was disagreement between two superior officers. As a matter of fact, there was a lot of disagreement. I myself looked into the case. The C. I. D. Inspector tried.

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All of us failed to decide what exactly the truth was and whether any offence had occurred at all.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): If the case had been handled well at the beginning you would not have failed in your investigation.

MR. W. H. PITT (*Commissioner of Police*): That might have been so. My position prevents me from giving the House full particulars of the case. This disagreement between investigating officers is, I think, a very good sign; because it shows that the officers are trying to think for themselves and to come to right conclusions instead of endorsing the views of subordinates and proceeding on them. It is only by thinking that we can come to correct conclusions.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Does not the present arrangement make the D. S. P. too much of a chair-and-table administrative officer?

MR. W. H. PITT (*Commissioner of Police*): I thought Mr. Hoogewerf was satisfied with the present arrangement, and that he agreed that an A. S. P. was required at Trivandrum.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): My point was that except in Trivandrum the other A. S. P's. might be put in direct charge of the division and some of them done away with.

MR. W. H. PITT (*Commissioner of Police*): I beg Mr. Hoogewerf's pardon. I undertake to consider the question whether, instead of putting an A. S. P. as Personal Assistant, he should not be put in direct charge of a division. There is something in that point of view. I will consider the matter carefully and report to Government. But the reason why he was placed as the Personal Assistant is that, in a D. S P's. Office—I speak from my own personal experience because I was once a D. S. P. myself and I am going to be one again—there is much routine work to do. For instance, the maintenance of records of services of the various employees in the department is a big business if it is done satisfactorily. The idea in posting these headquarter A. S. P's. was to give them a share of the office work and thereby to give more freedom to the D. S. P's. to move about and attend to more important matters.

Then, last year, I gave special reasons in each of these three cases. In the case of Trivandrum, Mr. Hoogewerf has already mentioned that in the Capital we cannot do without the existing number of Police Officers. That was the reason for the appointment of the Trivandrum headquarter A. S. P.

The Salaries Committee recommended one A. S. P. for Devicolam. Government thought that it was not necessary and so he was posted to Quilon where he could attend to Devicolam and other work as well.

As regards the one at Kottayam, it was proposed to post one at Peermade, and as in the case of Devicolam it was thought better to post him at Kottayam instead of at Peermade.

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[Mr. G. Parameswaran Pillai.]

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): I wish to know whether, if two officers are in the same office, there will not be a tendency on the part of the subordinate officer to always consult his superior for each and every thing.

MR. W. H. PITT (*Commissioner of Police*): That may be so.

With regard to the cost I was looking up the figures. I have examined the figures carefully and am in a position to state the cost on account of superior officers now, and that some years ago. In 1094, the amount spent as pay for these superior officers was Rs. 60,629, whereas in 1098—this is my calculation, not the Account Officer's—it is Rs. 46,825. There has been a reduction in 5 years of about Rs. 14,000 in the pay of the superior officers. During these years the pay of the station house officers and the head constables and constables has risen from Rs. 2,44,000 to Rs. 3,27,000 and the pay of the constabulary alone has risen by Rs. 60,310, the number of constables being practically the same in 1094 and 1098.

With regard to the increased cost of the department generally, the increased expenditure that we are now incurring is almost entirely due to the raising of the pay of the lower ranks and office establishments. The clerks have been placed on time scales of pay and I think they deserve any increase in the pay they are getting. With these remarks I oppose the motion.

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): After listening to Mr. Pitt I am of opinion that no case has been made out for the retention of the six Assistant Superintendents of Police. I thought that after the experience of one year Mr. Pitt would gracefully withdraw at least three Assistant Superintendents at the headquarter stations employed as Personal Assistants to the D. S. P's. I wanted to have an idea about the nature of the work that has been allotted to the A. S. P's. working as Personal Assistants and the work turned out by them; but I was not able to get from Mr. Pitt the comparative figures with respect of the duties of D. S. P's. and the Assistants who were kept in the office in the matter.

PRESIDENT: He gave you the figures in regard to the A. S. P's. You did not ask for information *re* D. S. P's.

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): I mean information about the total number of crimes investigated in each Division by D. S. P's. and the number investigated by the Assistant Superintendent and the proportion which that bears the to the total number. We were not able to get that figure.

At any rate, it was stated last year by Mr. Pitt that the Assistant Superintendents were primarily intended to look to the administrative side of the District Superintendent's office, to relieve the D. S. P's. so as to afford them time to go about and investigate cases, and to do more of inspection work.

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Now we have to remember that after all Travancore is a small country and in these days of quick locomotion it should be possible for three D. S. P's. to go about and do inspection work.

In regard to the strength of the superior officers in the department, it was said by Mr. Pitt that in 1087 there were 43 intermediary officers and that the number has now been reduced to 10. The figure 43 is misleading. There were originally 50 Inspectors and of those 39 were in charge of divisions and 11 Inspectors were treated as station house officers. The remaining station house officers were all head constables and the conditions have now altered considerably; because we find that the station house officers of the present day are mostly young graduates, in several cases getting a salary up to Rs. 200, whereas the original station house officer was a mere head constable. Whatever may have been the conditions then existing, now that the police officers—I mean the station house officers—are mostly graduates and getting very decent salaries, it should be possible for the D. S. P's. to efficiently supervise them in the present state of affairs.

So far as these three Personal Assistants are concerned I have again to submit that the duties attached to the D. S. P's office are not so heavy as to necessiate another office in his office itself. Further the pay of the D. S. P. is Rs. 300 to Rs. 400 and that of an A. S P, Rs. 200 to 250. For an officer on Rs. 300-400 to have a Personal Assistant on Rs. 200-250 is, I should consider, a very anomalous position. Another objection to the present arrangement is that there will be overlapping of functions and consequent conflict of duties as well. Because, oftentimes it is noticed that the D. S. P. deputes his Personal Assistant to go about the division and thus he is put in charge of the other Assistant Superintendent under the District Superintendent.

There is likely to be conflicting reports as well as overlapping of duties. I should, therefore, think that the Personal Assistants to the D. S. P's. may well be abolished and that the A. S. P's. in charge of divisions may be asked to do the duties appertaining to their legitimate portion instead of adding on to the costly establishment.

MR. J. JOHN NIDIRY (*Changanachery* cum *Minachil*): Sir,—

PRESIDENT: The time for discussion of this demand is almost over. You have got only two minutes more. Do you wish to speak Mr. Nidiry?

MR. J. JOHN NIDIRY (*Changanachery* cum *Minachil*): I am of opinion that there should be a decent number of superior officers to watch and supervise the working of the station house officers and other subordinates of the Police Department. But my point is whether it is not possible to have more D. S. P's. with smaller areas and to make most of these A. S. P's. into D. S. P's. having smaller jurisdiction with more individual responsibility assigned to each D. S. P. This in my opinion will be more satisfactory.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): I was listening carefully to Mr. Pitt. But the case that I made out has not been met

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[Mr. W. H. Pitt.]

by him in all its branches. With reference to the question of investigation, success in investigation depends upon a respectable acquaintance with the law of evidence. As to the question of detection, it is natural intelligence that succeeds there. In spite of highly salaried officers of the department being made to supervise the work of these officers in the lower rungs, it cannot be said that general success has attended the efforts of the department in that direction. If the Commissioner wants a decent percentage of success in the matter of investigation, he has to see that his officers are duly trained and qualified in such a way that they may have or acquire a respectable knowledge of the law of evidence to enable them to place facts before a court of law. For the detection of offences the persons selected should possess natural intelligence and shrewdness for detection. In disregard of that, if the Commissioner of Police thinks of appointing a respectable officer to supervise the work of the inefficient subordinate officers, that would not answer the purpose. I do not press for the reduction of Police Inspectors; if the requirements of the country call for the appointment of more police officers leading to further cost than is now being incurred, I would be the first man to support that idea. But the question has to be tested in all its bearings; it is for this purpose that I sent up my motion. It is this aspect of the question that I want the House to consider. I am not simply crying for the reduction of A. S. P. because he gets a fat pay. Such side questions do not weigh with one seriously. The question has to be examined upon some principle. It is the requirements of the country that have to be tested. It is not enough if A. S. P's. and D. S. P's. are planted like mile stones at regular distances. (*Laughter.*) That is not the sort of consideration we should bestow on the subject. With these submissions, I urge the motion again.

MR. W. H. PITT (*Commissioner of Police*): Sir, I know that I have got a very good case, but apparently I cannot represent it properly. From what I observe and know, I find the reduction in superior officers has reached the limit of danger and if more officers are taken away I repeat, what I said before, *viz.*, that it might be better to abolish the Police Department altogether.

Mr. G. Parameswaran Pillai referred to the fact that the present day station house officer is a vast improvement over his predecessor and it must be so. If that were not so, Government would not have reduced the number of superior officers from 43 to 10. Of course, that was the reason why the reduction has been carriedout. What I now say is the we have reached the utmost limit of reduction. It was pointed out that the pay of the A. S. P. at the headquarters and that of the D. S. P. are very much the same; and that possibly the A S P. would not carry out the orders of the D. S. P. I do not think that it necessarily follows and particularly in a force so well behaved and with a sense of discipline as the Travancore Police.

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MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): How many Assistant Superintendents are graduates and how many are non-graduates?

MR. W. H. PITT (*Commissioner of Police*): I forget. But I think it is three and three.

PRESIDENT: The information is in the Civil List.

MR. W. H. PITT (*Commissioner of Police*): I may say that the recruiting of non-graduate Inspectors ceased from 1098, automatically in accordance with Sir P. Rajagopalachari's scheme, and that in course of time all officers will be graduates.

Then Mr. Nidiry has again referred to—

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): Have any of these graduates who were entertained in 1088 or subsequently become Assistant Superintendents?

MR. W. H. PITT (*Commissioner of Police*): It is only 10 or 11 years ago that they were entertained—when Sir Rajagopalachari's scheme came into operation. In Travancore, promotion from Inspector to District Superintendent is more or less continuous. There has not been time for any officer entertained in 1088 to reach the rank of Assistant Superintendent.

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): Has any preference been shown to graduates in the matter of promotion?

MR. W. H. PITT (*Commissioner of Police*): Yes.

Then the point which Mr. Nidiry raised was whether it would not be better instead of having two officers at headquarters to give them independent charges. That point will be considered again.

I oppose the motion.

PRESIDENT: Do you press the motion, Mr. Narayana Pillai?

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): I do.

The motion was put to the vote and lost, 18 voting *for* and 23 *against*.

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): I demand a poll.

A poll was taken with the following result:—

AYES—18.

1.	Mr. T. M. Chidambaratanu Pillai.	10.	Mr. K. C. Mammen Mappillai.
2.	,, Paul V. Daniel.	11.	,, P. K. Narayana Pillai.
3.	,, A. Govinda Menon.	12.	,, M. N. Pillai.
4.	,, A. Hoogewerf.	13.	,, N. Padmanabha Pillai.
5.	,, C. P. Kochukunju Pillai.	14.	,, K. Paramesvaran Pillai.
6.	,, S. Krishna Aiyar.	15.	,, G. Paramesvaran Pillai.
7.	,, T. Kumara Pillai.	16.	,, N. Ramakrishna Pillai.
8.	,, V. Kunjukrishna Pillai.	17.	,, K. P. Raman Pillai.
9.	,, M. R. Madhava Variar.	18.	,, T. K. Velu Pillai.

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[President.]

NOES—23.

1.	Mr. I. C. Chacko.	12.	Mr. S. Parameswara Aiyar.
2.	,, R. Dhanukoti Pillai.	13.	,, J. John Nidiry.
3.	,, K. George.	14.	,, W. H. Pitt.
4.	,, L. C. Hodgson.	15.	,, K. C. Raja Raja Varma.
5.	,, M. K. Khadir Pillai.	16.	,, C. Ramankunju.
6.	,, R. Krishna Pillai.	17.	,, T. P. Ramasubba Aiyar.
7.	Dr. N. Kunjan Pillai.	18.	Rao Bahadur K. V. Rangaswami Aiyangar.
8.	Mr. Tariatu Kunjitomman.	19.	Mr. S. C. H. Robinson.
9.	Rev. Fr. Kuriakose Vettikkapalli.	20.	,, V. Subba-Aiyar.
10.	Dewan Bahadur Dr. P. N. Lakshmanan.	21.	,, S. Subrahmanya Karayalar.
11	Mr. K. V. Natesa Aiyar.	22.	,, A. J. Van Ross.
		23.	Dewan Bahadur T. Raghaviah.

PRESIDENT: The time for the discussion of this demand having expired, I will place it before the House for voting.

Motions 255 to 262.

The following motions lapsed:—

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI:

255. To omit the allotment of Rs. 348 for establishment for Inspectors' offices.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI:

256. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 45,000 for travelling allowance by Rs. 15,000.

MR P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI:

257. To omit the allotment of Rs. 500 for secret service.

MR. V. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI:

258. To omit the allotment of Rs. 1,200 for rewards.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI:

259. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 4,75,004 for District Police by Rs. 100.

MR. N. PADMANABHA PILLAI:

260. To reduce the total allotment of Rs. 5·33 lakhs under Demand XI by Rs. 75,000.

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI:

261. To reduce the total allotment of Rs. 5·33 lakhs under Demand XI by Rs. 100.

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR:

262. To reduce the total allotment of Rs. 5·33 lakhs under Demand XI by Rs. 100.

Demand XI—Police, for Rs. 5·33 lakhs *minus* Rs. 4,000, the cut which was accepted, was then put to the House and granted.

The House adjourned for lunch at 2·16 P. M. and re-assembled at 3 P. M.

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